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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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PLASTIC NEEDS

Why we can't get rid of our plastic habit

PAGE 6

WATCH IT

BMTC CCTV cameras suffering from lazy eye

PAGE 7

Inadequate lighting in areas outside metro stations make it a dangerous space for commuters who halt there to escape from sudden showers

IN THE GREY AREA

BMRCL to look into issue, but expert suggests riders find safer areas to halt

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the beginning of monsoon, the sight of commuters cramming into nooks and corners to evade rains is common. Motorists often seek shelter from a sudden shower below metro stations. However, these areas are dimly lit, making them prone to accidents. Commuters have urged the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to install adequate lighting in the areas outside the metro station in order to reduce the chance of a mishap to the minimum.

A frequent commuter said, "During the monsoons when it rains or turns cloudy, the areas below the metro station tend to get very dark. People who choose to halt under these stations for shelter can easily go unnoticed. Those driving on the road must be very careful." He added that if the authorities installed sufficient lighting, the risk of mishaps would decrease.

Another commuter said that it is a hassle to drive through the Kanakapura road stretch. "The sudden dark pitch causes lots of discomfort while driving below the metro

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

> "The BMRCL can install light sensors in the mid point which can be set to trigger a pulse to the switch for the lights to turn on and off automatically
>
> – MA Ravinder, a citizen

Parking, no walk in the park in city

Commuters wonder if wrong parking is the only offence that traffic police are going after in most committed manner

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The traffic police has recorded 35,73,008 cases of traffic violations in 2022, as of May -- and wrong parking is a major violation in the city. Citizens complain that in the absence of adequate parking spaces, they are forced to commit this violation and as police go after them, often more serious violations are ignored.

According to the data, the city recorded 4,93,730 cases of wrong parking. People in the city say that the traffic police concentrate on collecting fines rather than enforcement of their rules.

"The data shows that the maximum number of violations are for things like wrong parking or footpath parking. If there is no space for parking provided by BBMP, what am I supposed to do? How come this is the rider's fault? The police should understand that the number of vehicles in the city is increasing and there is no place to keep them, so we end up parking them on the road," said Sujesh.

Another citizen, Supriya Mehta, said, wrongful parking is not that big an offence considering that the city does not have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Rock fusion

India's one of the most popular and loved bands, Indian Ocean is going to launch its latest album 'Tu Hai'. The album embraces the influence that our beloved band had on Indian music. This tour is all intertwined with the best Indian fusion rock music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield**
When: Friday, June 30; 7:30 pm

02 Wildlife art

Here's a chance for art enthusiasts to visit the captivating world of wildlife art and immerse themselves in the majestic world of tigers. 'The Kingdom of Tigers' is a solo symphony by Odisha-born artist Anup Kumar Chand that explores the interplay between different artistic genres.
Where: Gallery G- Gallery 1, The Atrium, 38 Maini Sadan, 7th Cross, Lavelle Road
When: until July 3; 10 am to 6:30 pm (Monday to Saturday)

AI in the field

MMCL entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BMS College of Engineering to explore the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of media. This collaboration aims to leverage the potential of AI technologies to enhance various aspects of the media industry.

Done with college? But where's your degree?

Students of BU-affiliated autonomous colleges complain about delay in issuance of degree certificates

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A student of a reputed BU-affiliated autonomous college has alleged that a delay in issuing certificates from Bangalore University has cost her nearly Rs 80,000 in non-refundable admission fees to colleges abroad.

Despite graduating in 2002, a student of a reputed college in Bengaluru has yet to receive a BU degree certificate. To be eligible to apply to college abroad, these certificates are vital. Despite repeated attempts, the parents of the student complain that college authorities have failed to do their due diligence.

FM Monterio, the parent of the student, told Bangalore Mirror that they are paying approximately 800 Euros for an admission form to a college in the Netherlands. "Once they accept the form, they say that we don't have the requisite documents. The transcript certificate that was supposed to be issued from the BU through the autonomous college has not been issued. The college has been lackadaisical in its approach and has failed to issue the certificates," he said.

Colleges are playing with students' careers, and their incompetence is unacceptable, he added.

"We had paid Rs 3,500 for the convocation ceremony, but the officials are constantly delaying the process. We don't understand why degree certificates cannot be issued in the passing year. It has already been one year, and now they are further delaying," he explained. The situation seems to be more widespread, as Bangalore University also issued a circular, asking principals of autonomous colleges not to send their students to Bangalore University to get issues resolved.

The circular said that all the principals of the autonomous colleges affiliated to Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru, are informed not to send their students directly to the office of the Registrar (Evaluation) to solve their college problems. Many of the issues can be resolved at the colleges by their respective principals.

Some of the students are regularly visiting and asking to solve their problems. Some are creating a nuisance as well. Therefore, colleges are informed not to send students directly to the University. If there are any issues to be resolved by the University, they can personally visit this office for a discussion with the Registrar (Evaluation) so that the problems can be addressed.

Students and their parents say that the college authorities have failed to do their due diligence

> **"The transcript certificate that was supposed to be issued from the BU through the autonomous college has not been issued**
> – FM Monterio, a parent

The aggrieved parent also questioned why BU was singling out students from autonomous colleges. However, BU clarified that the delay in issuing certificates was due to a delay in conducting convocation ceremonies. "Once convocation is over, we are immediately uploading to Digi-locker.

We need to wait for the convocation, and certificates will be issued after that. The convocation has been slotted for this August or September. If there are any emergency cases or students are applying abroad, they can approach us to get a provisional authorising certificate issued," said Dr Jayakar Shetty, Vice Chancellor of BU.

Girls just want to hit the road

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of women bikers and women biking clubs in India in recent years. Women are actively participating in group rides and embracing the thrill and freedom of riding motorcycles.

"I'm glad to see the growing women's motorcycle community. Safety is of utmost importance when it comes to motorcycling, and women riders are no exception," says Shilpa Nagraj, an inspiring biker with over 10 years of passion for riding.

BIKERS' BUZZ
BM'S PLATFORM TO MAKE THE GOOD RIDES ROLL

The first and foremost accessory that every female biker should have is a high-quality helmet. A helmet is crucial for protecting the head and reducing the risk of serious injury in the event of an accident. Women should ensure that the helmet they choose fits properly and meets safety standards.

"When it comes to accessories, I always suggest riders invest in good-quality protective gear, including a full-face helmet, jacket, riding pants, boots, and gloves. For tourers, waterproof luggage with the required mounts or straps plays an equally important role. A waist pouch comes in handy for small items and documents. I also recommend using a tank bag for touring, especially for longer journeys," adds Shilpa.

In addition to a helmet, female riders should invest in a durable and protective riding jacket. "A good riding jacket not only offers protection from the elements but also provides abrasion resistance in case of a fall," says a representative of the Indian Bull Riders. There are specific jackets designed for women that offer a comfortable fit and added protection for vulnerable areas like the shoulders and elbows.

Riding pants are another essential accessory for female bikers. These pants are typically made of sturdy materials like leather or textile with reinforced areas for enhanced protection. They protect the lower body from abrasions and injuries in the event of a slide or fall.

Women should opt for gloves specifically designed for motorcycle riding, with features like reinforced palms and knuckle protection. Gloves made of materials like leather or Kevlar provide excellent abrasion resistance.

Footwear is also an important consideration for female riders. Sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots are recommended to protect the feet and ankles. Motorcycle-specific boots offer additional protection with reinforced soles and ankle support.

Apart from safety gear, there are other accessories that women bikers should carry for convenience and preparedness. A well-fitted and comfortable backpack or saddlebag is essential for carrying personal belongings, including a mobile phone, wallet, water bottle, and any other necessary items. **— Sinchana Tejasvi**

VK Education Fair off to a grand start

PHOTO CREDIT: DEBAYAN SEN

Higher education minister Dr MC Sudhakar speaking at VK Education Fair

VK ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ FAIR 2023
A PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EVENT
24th & 25th June 2023
Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College Campus, Bangalore

Thousands of students thronged the inaugural day of the Vijay Karnataka Education Fair held at the Jnana Jyoti Auditorium on the Central College campus on Saturday. Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar, inaugurating the programme, stressed the importance of such education fairs in helping students make informed career choices.

Reflecting on his own student days, he said, "When I was studying, we never had such opportunities. Fortunately, the range of career options has expanded significantly. Previously, the choices were limited to medical, dental, or general degree courses, with humanities often considered the last option. But times have changed, and now there is a bright future for almost all courses. It's crucial to remember the support of parents and to choose the right course, as higher education serves as a stepping stone for a successful career.

"I am confident that this fair will provide valuable insights to students, and VK has provided an excellent platform for that. Today, we also felicitated many deserving students. It's gratifying to witness the increased participation of women in higher education. When I was studying BDS, women's enrollment was not more than 40 per cent, but today, in some institutions, it has surpassed 80 per cent. This is a true testament to women's empowerment and helps us achieve our dream of equality in all fields," he explained.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Lingaraj Gandhi of Bengaluru Central University acknowledged the significance of the pre-university stage, commonly known as plus two. He described it as a transition period from pre-university to university and emphasised that it offers a multitude of opportunities and choices. However, he also acknowledged the existence of choice fatigue.

In this context, the VK Education Fair plays a vital role in helping students overcome this fatigue. Prof Gandhi stressed that post-pre-university is a significant milestone in one's academic journey. He highlighted the availability of job-oriented courses and the presence of multidisciplinary options across all streams, which greatly benefit the students.

Well-known actor Raj B Shetty congratulated the organisers and offered his advice to the students, saying, "Choose a course that resonates with your heart. I wasn't particularly strong academically, but I found my passion in filmmaking. Therefore, opt for courses that bring you happiness. When you are content, society will thrive as well."

Students felicitated at VK Education Fair

During the event, rural students who achieved high marks in the II PU exams were honoured. Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka CEO Deepak Saluja, VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli, and AD6 advertising proprietor K Vijaykala were present.

The students who attended the expo expressed their thrill at being part of the event, as it provided them with the opportunity to explore multiple colleges in one place, further enriching their aspirations of securing admission to the best institutions. The expo will continue on Sunday, presenting a golden chance for all aspiring students to pursue higher education. Entry to the expo is free, and two lucky draws will be held, offering the winners a chance to win electric vehicles worth Rs 1.25 lakh. Hence, don't miss the opportunity to visit the expo today.

– Prakash VL

Raj B Shetty speaking at VK Education Fair

THE TIMES GROUP
VK ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
VIJAY KARNATAKA
NO.1 READ DAILY IN KARNATAKA
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Inviting students & Parents
LAST DAY
VK ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ FAIR 2023
A PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EVENT
24th & 25th June 2023
Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College Campus, Mysore Bank Circle, Bengaluru -01
Wondering about which Course & Institution to Join after a Successful Examination?
Come, Join us in the Mega Education Fair @ Bengaluru
Venue:
Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College Campus, Mysore Bank Circle, Bengaluru -01
Time: 09.30AM to 05.30PM
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Out of order, and water

Trinity Enclave residents lodge complaint against non-operational BBMP borewell

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The layout is still under development and has yet to receive Cauvery water; the borewell has remained unrepaired despite multiple follow-ups. They suspect the apathy of the contractor is due to unpaid bills

Residents of Trinity Enclave, a layout in Ramamurthy Nagar, have lodged complaints regarding the non-functioning borewell provided to them by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The borewell has remained unrepaired despite multiple follow-ups over the past 18 days. They suspect that the apathy of the designated contractor is due to unpaid bills.

Kochu Sankar, a member of the Trinity Enclave Residents Association (TERA), stated that the layout is still under development and has yet to receive Cauvery water. "Although the pipelines were laid two years ago, and we have paid all the necessary connection fees, we have not received water due to issues within the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). The initial deadline was March of this year, which was later extended to June, but we are still waiting," he explained.

As an alternative water source, the BBMP supplied three borewell pumps for over 100 houses in the area.

However, due to the summer season, two of these borewells have dried up, leaving residents reliant on a single borewell for all their water needs.

Sankar expressed frustration that despite multiple follow-ups in the past 18 days, the assigned maintenance contractor has not addressed the issue.

"I have even escalated the matter to the zonal commissioner, who acknowledged water supply as an essential service requiring urgent attention. However, the contractor has failed to respond to multiple calls. Even when BBMP officials attempted to resolve the problem, no improvement was seen," he added, noting that the lack of interest from the contractor may be attributed to unpaid bills. Consequently, residents are forced to rely on expensive water tankers to meet their water requirements.

Following the formation of the new Congress government, an order was issued on May 26 to withhold payments for projects sanctioned during the previous BJP regime. The BBMP Contractors Association expressed dissatisfaction with this decision.

> **"Although the pipelines were laid two years ago, we have not received water due to issues within the BWSSB**
>
> – Kochu Sankar, member of the Trinity Enclave Residents Association

"While the government may have good intentions to review and streamline processes, it is the residents who suffer. Due to the imposition of the code of conduct, all government services have come to a halt, and development projects have been stalled.

Contractors were also occupied with election duties, leaving no time to address citizen concerns. Even after the elections, this order has given contractors a reason to complain," Sankar explained.

He urged the government to swiftly resolve the issue and restore sensitivity towards the needs of the citizens.

Multi-level delay for multi-level parking

BBMP's 80-crore Freedom Park parking facility fails to open to public yet again

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A view of the parking facility at Freedom Park; The three-floor facility can accommodate 550 four-wheelers and 450 two-wheelers

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has once again failed to open the parking facility at Freedom Park. Previously, the civic body had informed the public that the facility would be opened after the elections.

In yet another case of never-ending delay in the development of public infrastructure by the Palike, the facility, worth Rs 80 core, has still not been opened. After failing to receive successful bids for the facility, the Palike decided to take on the maintenance of the facility, hoping that the public would soon be able to use it.

A senior BBMP official told Bangalore Mirror, "We are in the process of establishing boom barriers for the facility." The 1,000-capacity facility has been under construction since 2017. The construction was completed months ago, but it has not yet been opened to the public yet. The Palike had called for eight tenders before deciding to hand them over to the Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) departments under the Road and Infrastructure Department.

> **BBMP had called for eight tenders before deciding to hand them over to the TEC departments under the Road and Infrastructure dept**

The three-floor facility can accommodate 550 four-wheelers and 450 two-wheelers. The Palike wanted the bidding agency to operate all services at the parking facility 24X7, collect service fees, and be held responsible for damages.

Additionally, to encourage the use of the facility, paid parking was proposed on 12 roads: Kalidasa Road, Freedom Park entrance, Ramachandra Road, 2nd to 5th main roads, and all roads from 2nd Cross to 6th Cross and Subedar Chatram Road. A few months ago, the then Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic), MA Saleem, had asked the Palike to build more multi-level parking facilities in the city.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage dumping

HRBR Layout

Garbage dumping in front of homes in HRBR Layout, Banaswadi is causing inconvenience and environmental issues.

Fire hazard

Madhavanagar

A blocked gate at KCN apartment complex in Madhavanagar is posing a fire hazard, requiring immediate action from authorities.

Turn it off

Austin Town

A streetlight on Palmgrove Cross, Austin Town is continuously switched on during the day for a week, despite complaints.

Expressway turns accident express

Cops ask NHAI to fix Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway after 91 accidents in 2023 so far

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The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway has undoubtedly improved travel between the city and Mysuru, but it has also witnessed a significant surge in accidents. With 91 fatalities and 365 injuries recorded on this expressway alone, the police have submitted a dossier to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), calling for immediate rectification measures. In specific areas, Kumbalgodu police station limits have reported 14 deaths, Bidadi has witnessed 22, Ramanagar, 23, and Channapatna, 32.

The police dossier urges the NHAI to promptly deploy towing vehicles for efficient clearance of accident vehicles. Furthermore, police officials emphasise the necessity of constructing a pedestrian overpass at Kaniminike to facilitate safe crossing for local residents. They also highlight inadequate and unscientifically constructed drainage facilities in certain stretches, urging the NHAI to undertake immediate construction.

Additionally, the police observe that the accumulation of debris from litter or other vehicles on the road contributes to slippery conditions, leading to accidents. They point out that the sides of the road near Rajarajeshwari Hospital have been left unfixed after excavation, causing disruptions to smooth travel. Ensuring proper signage throughout the expressway is deemed crucial. At Jagat Pharma, heavy rainfall causes water stagnation on the road, resulting in traffic congestion and hazardous situations.

Vehicles stuck in traffic on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway; it has reduced travel time for commuters

The police express concern over the slow toll collection process at Kanaminike toll gate, which contributes to traffic congestion. This issue has also attracted criticism on social media platforms. To facilitate efficient accident response, the police propose the creation of dedicated lanes for cop vehicles when accidents occur. Furthermore, they recommend the installation of skywalks at Baba Sahbara Palya (Kengeri check post), Kanaminike, SB Doddi, Hanumanta Nagara, Sankalakere Cross, and Belakere gate to enhance pedestrian safety and convenience.

A senior police official commented, "The travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru used to exceed three hours. It has now been reduced to less than two hours. While the construction of bypasses at Bidadi, Ramanagara-Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya, and Srirangapanta was expected to alleviate traffic congestion, statistics reveal an increase in speeding and a lack of scientific road construction, resulting in accidents. Therefore, we have submitted a dossier to the NHAI to address these issues and ensure a significant reduction in accidents for improved safety."

> **"Statistics reveal an increase in speeding and a lack of scientific road construction, resulting in accidents. wWe have submitted a dossier to the NHAI**
>
> – Senior police official

Meanwhile, pressure is mounting for the construction of a flyover at Manipal hospital junction on the Outer Ring Road (ORR)-Mysuru city route, as the smooth flow of traffic to the heritage city faces bottleneck congestion. Officials state that if the tender process is initiated promptly, the flyover construction may commence in September, but it may take several more months for completion. Commuters, such as Subbaiah S, express the need for a flyover, stating, "Currently, we have to wait for more than 15 to 20 minutes just to cross that junction as the 10-lane road narrows down to four lanes. Additionally, heavy traffic on the ORR of Mysuru exacerbates the situation. A flyover is the need of the hour."

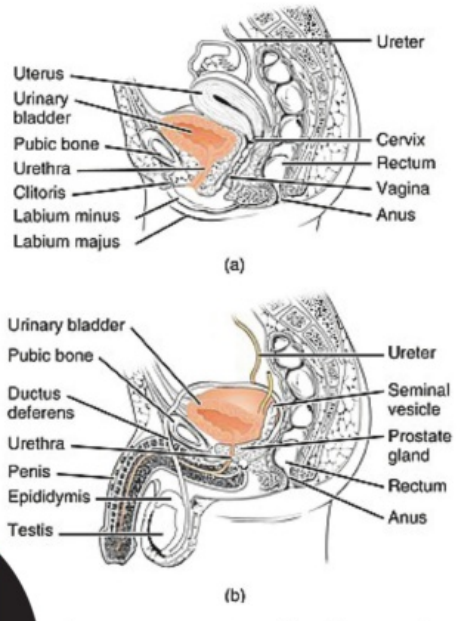
ADVERTORIAL

Live Incontinence free life

As a doctor, I have seen many women who suffer from incontinence, and I know how much it can affect their quality of life. On the occasion of World Continence Week, it is important to raise awareness about this condition and to encourage women to seek help if they are experiencing symptoms.

Incontinence is a common condition that affects almost 1 in every 3 women in India. It is the involuntary loss of urine and can be caused by a variety of factors, including pregnancy, childbirth, menopause, and aging. Incontinence can be classified into two main types: stress incontinence and urge incontinence.

Stress incontinence is the most common type of incontinence in women and is caused by weakened pelvic floor muscles. Urge incontinence is caused by an overactive bladder and is characterized by the sudden urge to urinate.



Treatment for incontinence can include pelvic floor exercises, medication, or surgery. Pelvic floor exercises, also known as Kegels, can help to strengthen the muscles that support the bladder and prevent leakage. In some cases, medication or surgery may be necessary.

Many women are hesitant to discuss this condition with their healthcare provider out of embarrassment or shame. However, healthcare providers are trained to help women manage this condition and can provide valuable support and resources. Women should not suffer in silence and should seek help if they are experiencing symptoms of incontinence.

In conclusion, incontinence is a common condition that affects many women. As a doctor, I urge women to seek help if they are experiencing symptoms of incontinence. With the right treatment and support, women can manage this condition and improve their quality of life. Let's raise awareness about this condition and encourage women to seek the help they need.

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THE SUNDAY READ

Plastic prevails

Despite ban, why can't we get rid of our plastic habit?

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A year ago, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) notified a ban on select Single Use Plastic (SUP) items. Starting July 1, 2022, as many as 19 SUP items were banned and as per the new rule; anyone caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing, or stocking these products was to be penalised.

Following the ban, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ramped up the vigil. Between July 1, 2022, and June 21, 2023, BBMP claims to have collected over Rs 13 crore in fines and seized 60,000 kg of banned plastic items over the last year.

Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, the civic agency had seized only 2,703 kg of plastic items and collected Rs 28 lakh in fines.

According to Harish Kumar K, special commissioner, solid waste management, BBMP, the Palike is looking at intensifying the drive over the coming days.

"We are trying hard to ensure that the Centre's ban is implemented effectively. To enforce it more stringently, we are also looking at strengthening our team and intensifying the drive over the coming days. BBMP is also open to suggestions from stakeholders to ensure that banned SUPs are eliminated from the city," said Kumar.

As per the rule plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, PVC banners less than 100 micron and stirrers are the SUP items that are banned.

No respite

However, despite BBMP's best efforts, banned SUPs are still being sold and used rampantly across the city.

Experts say while the BBMP is playing its part by seizing banned products, there is a lack of awareness among consumers about which items are banned and which are not. They advocate that a BBMP-led campaign will not only spread awareness but will also bring about much-needed changes in consumer behavior.

"There is still a great deal of confusion among consumers about which items are banned and which are not. BBMP must conduct a large-scale campaign using the fine amount collected over the last year. Moreover, green alternatives such as cloth bags should be made available to replace plastic," said V Ramprasad, solid waste management expert.

Before the Centre's ban last year, Karnataka had prohibited the use of all plastics below a thickness of 40 microns in 2015. A year later, the state government issued a notification banning all plastic products regardless of their thickness.

Experts say while the state showed advanced thinking years ago by pushing out the message to shift to green alternatives, the situation is back to square one.

> **Customers also play a role in making such bans effective - change habits to carry their bags (BYOB as is the term) or be willing to pay for a reusable bag**
> –Odette Katrak, Beautiful Bengaluru

"While the nationwide plastic ban was imposed recently, Karnataka's focus on no single-use plastic kicked off right from 2016. Carrying a plastic bag was frowned upon here much before any other city! BBMP leadership too, back in 2018-19, focused on enforcement; alternatives were actively promoted. The pandemic took us many steps backward and plastic has flooded the system. Banned items are everywhere, used fearlessly. Concerted enforcement is urgently needed again; inflow must be blocked too," said Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bengaluru.

Experts say unless a change is brought about in consumers' behavior, the situation will not improve.

"Customers also play a role in making such bans effective - change habits to carry their bags (BYOC as is the term) or be willing to pay for a reusable bag. It must first be ensured that banned plastic is unavailable in the shops. Since plastic bags are easily accessible, customers are not under pressure and even fight with vendors who fear losing customers, so the problem continues," added Katrak.

Cracking arrests, but scamsters keep cops on toes

Cyber Crime police's Whitefield division in Bengaluru has ended the free run of a conman, a womaniser who cheated three women of Rs 40 lakh by claiming to be a royal scion from Mysuru and promising them marriage in July, 2021.

Muttu K @ Vinay K @ Siddharth Raj Urs @ Sandy, a resident of Mysuru, has been arrested following a complaint by a woman who alleged that he had cheated her of Rs 19 lakh. Further investigations revealed that he had cheated two more women and the police suspect that many more gullible women may have fallen prey to him.

The accused made calls from the lobbies of luxury hotels and said that he is a software engineer working for a US tech company. He had registered as Siddharth Raj Urs from the Mysuru royal family on several matrimonial websites. He had posted many pictures of small kids before the Mysuru Palace and claimed to be one among them. The police say that the accused is a school dropout and a travel guide. He took to crime after reading about a similar case.

*Karnataka police have nabbed an IIT-Kharagpur dropout 34-year-old Navneeth Pandey from Uttar Pradesh for attempting to purchase a Point of Sales (POS) machine in the name of a restaurant fraudulently to siphon off money on January 2, 2023.

Navneeth collected debit cards and credit cards from persons known to him and made an attempt to purchase a POS machine claiming to be the owner of the Kidambis Kitchen Restaurant of Banashankari. The fraud came to light after the bank staffer went to inspect the restaurant before issuing the POS machine. The police are ascertaining the exact plans of committing financial fraud by the accused who is an IIT dropout.

*Ramamurthy Nagar police in Bengaluru arrested an ICICI Bank manager on the charge of illegally passing a cheque for Rs 3.9 crore on November 13, 2019.

Ramamurthy Nagar ICICI Bank branch manager Prasad was arrested. The accused had passed the cheque without verification, colluding with the other accused persons.

These are a very few incidents of fraudsters from decent backgrounds who were ultimately caught by the Karnataka police. The department has cracked some of the most difficult and high-profile cheating cases that made national news.

However, police department sources admit that scamsters making use of the loopholes in the law continue to operate and preventive mechanisms are not effectively implemented due to the pressures on the system. Retired SP SK Umesh, talking to IANS, said those with money get trapped and end up losing money. They have more faith in fraudsters than themselves. Their entire focus will be on returns and they are only bothered about the interest and forget about the capital. No matter how many reports are published in the media and programmes are made on television, people keep on falling prey to the scams because of their greed, he said.

—IANS

Cut me not: Residents, landowner lock horns over tree

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A number of residents living in BTM Layout are at loggerheads with a private property owner over a fully-grown honge tree, also known as the Indian beech tree. Residents say the avenue tree, which was planted by the city municipal body 35 years ago, now faces the threat of being cut down by the property owner who is planning to construct a house.

"The individual who has purchased the plot is building a house and wants to chop down the tree that is in front of his property, on the road. Even before the commencement of the construction, we requested him to spare the tree and design the house accordingly. However, he has not budged, citing Vastu defects," said Nagendra Viswanath, a resident of the area.

Locals say they have been escalating the issue with their area tree officer for nearly a year, but the response has been disappointing.

"The violator has reached out to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) directly with the request. The tree officer has also been dilly-dallying with our petition to save the tree," said Meera Keshav, another resident.

Residents allege that while they have held many peaceful conversations with the landowner, the takeaway from every conversation was that the tree would be removed soon. The property owner has also allegedly made subtle threats to the residents using muscle power and has reiterated innumerable times that he is willing to spend lakhs of rupees to get the tree chopped.

The private property owner wants to cut this tree in BTM Layout due to 'Vastu defects'

They also claim that while their petition was signed by the local MLA, the property owner has gone ahead and damaged a few branches to ensure that the tree dies on its own.

"We have reached out to our local MLA, and he has signed our petition and asked the tree officer to ensure the tree is not damaged. The property owner claims he has the right to cut the tree as he has donated 50 thousand saplings to a project. He has now gone ahead and damaged a couple of branches," alleged another resident.

Crestfallen with no action taken by the authorities so far, the residents have now written to the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), BBMP noting that the tree is among the last few in the area and houses many birds and small animals.

As per a High Court order passed a couple of years ago and the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976 a tree cannot be cut or damaged unless it poses an imminent danger to life and property. Even the DCF cannot grant permission to cut trees unless it meets the above condition. Any requests to axe trees are to be reviewed by the tree expert committee put in place through the High Court order.

According to BBMP officials, they have received the complaint, and action will be taken against the perpetrators.

You're watching the wrong person

With BMTC buses starting CCTV surveillance, women passengers say the focus is on wrong things

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As more women passengers walk into buses, CCTV cameras in Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses play a vital role in safeguarding them. CCTVs can also record audio and are being monitored by the control room.

As of now, BMTC has completed the installation of CCTVs in 5,000 buses and is still in the process of installing the remaining ones. As of July 23, 2023, a total of 2,00,31,398 women have travelled in BMTC buses, with over 19,50,182 women passengers on July 23 alone.

Senior BMTC officials told Bangalore Mirror, "The CCTVs capture audio and video recording, and the data is kept with us for 15 days. In case of misbehaviour or accidents, the footage is accessed. Additionally, there is a panic button, and upon pressing it, a 20-second video is sent to the control room."

However, women passengers highlight the lack of consent from women in the matter and constant surveillance of them due to the misbehaviour of men. "While the measure of installing CCTVs can be helpful, it's also a massive violation of privacy. There is a narrative that CCTVs are ensuring the safety of women. However, we don't know how the footage is monitored or who has access to this footage. I do not want to be recorded in this manner," said Vinutha, a BMTC bus user.

She added that BMTC should work on addressing larger issues that lead to the need for CCTVs. "There should be proper governing laws that would hold the guilty accountable. There is a need to sensitise passengers about the safety of women. Additionally, people comment on my choice of clothing and the way I sit. Such incidents cannot be monitored through CCTVs alone," she added.

> **"While the measure of installing CCTVs can be helpful, it's also a massive violation of privacy. We don't know how the footage is monitored or who has access to it** – Vinutha, commuter

Women commuters boarding a BMTC bus; they say that sexual harassment in buses cannot be stopped by just installing cameras

Another BMTC user, Shaheen Shasa, said, "When buses are heavily crowded, how much can these CCTVs really capture the harassment faced by women? Often the harassers deploy very subtle means to violate women."

There is a need for a larger framework for sexual harassment. It should include avenues for women to safely report such incidents on buses, as well as ensure proper conduct by men. "There should be a clear system for grievance and action on offenders. This would give women the reassurance of safety in buses," she added.

Man stabs wife in broad daylight

In a shocking incident that occurred on June 21 in Bengaluru, a man viciously attacked his wife with a knife in broad daylight, leaving her lying in a pool of blood. The accused, identified as Diwakar, has since been arrested by the Banaswadi police.

CCTV footage captured the shocking sequence of events. Diwakar, his wife Nikita, and a friend were seen riding bikes together when Diwakar abruptly stopped and tilted the bike, causing Nikita to fall. It was at this moment, in front of their friend's eyes, that Diwakar mercilessly stabbed his wife multiple times. After the attack, the two fled the scene.

Witnessing the gruesome incident, concerned onlookers immediately called the police. They found Nikita bleeding profusely on the road and rushed her to the hospital, arranging blood for her. She is currently under the care of female police personnel at the hospital.

Prior to the incident, Nikita and Diwakar had chosen to marry against their parents' wishes. Their relationship was marred by domestic issues. The police have apprehended Diwakar and charged him with attempted murder. They are also actively searching for his friend who was present during the incident. **-BMB**

Menstrual movement

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, in collaboration with UNESCO India, has launched a campaign in Bengaluru to promote menstrual hygiene. The initiative aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by women and young girls in managing their periods, especially those attending school. The campaign, titled 'Spotlight Red', introduced five teaching-learning modules. These modules address various aspects of menstrual health and hygiene management, including disability, gender, educators, young adults, and nutrition. The goal of the modules is to provide comprehensive resources and strategies to learners, educators, menstruators, and community leaders. **-BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

JUST A GLANCE

A four-horned antelope stares into the camera at Bandipur

The picture was clicked by BM reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Streets grapple with excess rainwater

Hulimavu Gate faces water accumulation during rain; locals complain of vehicle damage, traffic disruptions

During the rainy season, Hulimavu Gate, a bustling central area, grapples with a significant problem caused by poor drainage and stagnant water. What should be a relieving season for the people becomes a maze of standing water, leading to inconvenience, health risks, and infrastructure damage.

Locals allege that as the rain arrives, the streets of Hulimavu Gate quickly succumb to water accumulation, resulting in chaotic and long-lasting puddles. These stagnant pools pose risks to locals, including accidents, vehicle damage, and traffic disruptions. Moreover, the presence of stagnant water, which is often drainage water, poses a public health concern.

Mohammed Amaan, a resident, said, "To address the current water flow and drainage issues, it is crucial to assess the existing drainage system and make necessary improvements. Building more drains and channels to tackle this issue and expediting metro construction would greatly enhance convenience."

The prolonged impact of metro construction raises concerns among the community. Many added that the condition is getting worse. Parneet Kaur Randhava, a student, said, "How long will we be affected by the metro construction when there seems to be no solution? The stagnant water situation is deteriorating day by day."

Bangalore Mirror
1 cm of rain can cause floods in B'luru

BM's report on KSNDMC identifying 226 locations that are prone to flooding

For delivery personnel like Manoj Kumar, timely food delivery becomes challenging during the monsoon season. He told BM, "Reaching customers' food promptly is of utmost importance. With the current road conditions and the additional problem of metro construction, it becomes a struggle. It's crucial to address these issues."

— Dankan Narayanaswamy

Locals allege that as the rain arrives, the streets quickly succumb to water accumulation, resulting in long-lasting puddles

According to residents, to address the current water flow issue, it is crucial to assess the existing drainage system

DID YOU KNOW?

Wonderla is owned and managed by Wonderla Holidays Limited. The company's headquarters are located near Bidadi, approximately 28 km away from Bengaluru. The amusement park operates three amusement parks situated in Kochi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. Kochouseph Chittilappily and his son, Arun Chittilappily, are the promoters of Wonderla. The first amusement park was set up in Kochi in 2000. The second park was set up in Bengaluru in 2005. The park is popular for land and water rides, laser shows, a musical fountain, and more.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

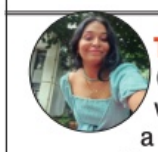
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What has been your more nightmarish experience in the city?

Sooryagayatri Nair, BM Reader
Once, my sister and I decided to visit Lal Bagh. We were dressed appropriately and simply enjoying our Sunday, not wearing any revealing clothes. Suddenly, out of nowhere, two guys started following us. We only realised this after seeing them around us more than three times. We tried to walk away, but they kept following us persistently. We ended up speed-walking until we reached the Jayanagar side gate, where we finally managed to lose them.

Mohan BS, BM REader
I went to a film shoot near Hosakerehalli. The shoot took longer than expected, and it was around 11 pm when I left. I tried booking an auto. After 15 minutes, I finally managed to book an auto. However, the location service on my phone wasn't working properly, and the driver couldn't precisely locate me. I became increasingly scared and called him 7 or 8 times, providing him with incoherent directions. Surprisingly, he listened to me.



Tanusri Reddy, BM Reader
Once, my friends and I were waiting for an acquaintance on a road around 7:30 pm. The road was quite narrow, and there weren't many people around. A car passed by, and one of the guys inside started making weird noises while looking at me. Feeling uncomfortable, I glanced at my friend, and he asked, "Did you just get catcalled?" I reluctantly responded, "I guess so." I didn't realise it had happened until my friend pointed it out.

Rajshree Rajesh, BM Reader
I used to travel from Konanakunte Cross to Baiyappanahalli in the evening. The journey from my location to Konanakunte Cross station was quite nerve-wracking. After arriving at Baiyappanahalli station, I would usually get off on the parking side, and I wouldn't get an auto for 30 mins. Moreover, that area was unsafe. Hence, I started getting off on the Old Madras Road side. That side was also unsafe. I would still face auto issues, but at least I felt safer when I finally exited the place.

SPEAK TO US

Tell us about some experiences that you feel can be had only in Bengaluru...

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Jaywalking: Who's to blame?

Pedestrians in spotlight after person almost causes accident

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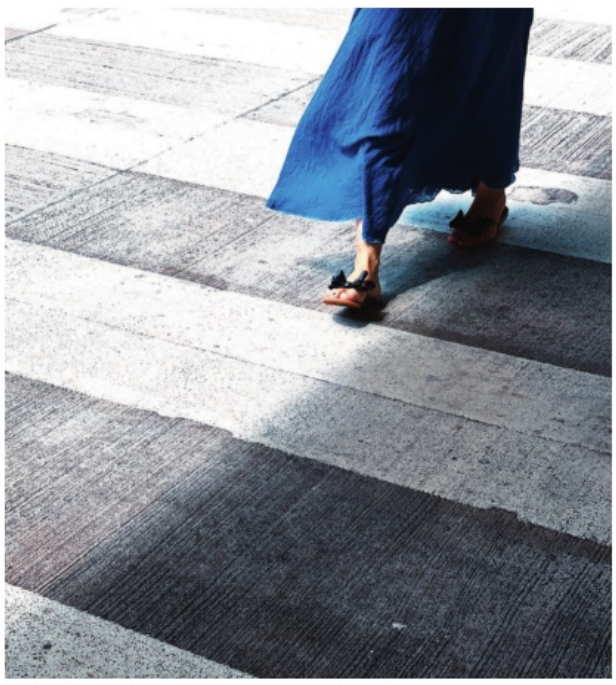

There has been a long-running debate about whether pedestrians in the city should be penalised for jaywalking. Many claim that there is no proper infrastructure for pedestrians, like footpaths, and they are forced to walk on the road. While many say that pedestrians walking on the road can lead to more accidents and disrupt the traffic flow.

The debate was again triggered following the incident of a possible collision involving a speeding bus in Mangaluru, when a woman was booked for jaywalking. At around noon on Tuesday, the incident happened at Thoudugoli Cross in Mangaluru.

While the police initially mentioned that they had booked the bus driver for rash driving, several claimed that the woman was equally at fault because she was not walking properly.

Later, Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic and Road Safety, Bengaluru, said that because there is no specific provision against jaywalking in the Motor Vehicles Act, as a deterrent, the police department has invoked the provisions of the Karnataka Traffic Control Rules 1979 against the woman for being negligent while walking.

He added that he believes that there are not enough facilities for pedestrians for the police to register cases against them.

"We don't have infrastructure catering to pedestrians. You can't just make laws and punish people; first of all, you need facilities. If there are no facilities, then having laws against pedestrians will become extremely complex. When there is no facility, we can't impose anything mandatory. But whenever there is a signal light or zebra crossing and still someone is deliberately trying to not follow the rules, then action will be taken," Kumar told BM.

The department will eventually have a discussion regarding this with the government, but as of now, it's too early, as Kumar opines that pedestrian issues are complicated in nature.

"We are focusing on law enforcement. Whenever we see that pedestrians are not following the rules, we take action. It is not for all pedestrians that we are invoking this law, but if we come across a pedestrian who is endangering another's life, then we will be taking appropriate action," he explained.

When asked about netizens complaining on social media regarding the issue, he added that on Twitter, people tend to not understand the intricate details of its functioning, but police are aware of the larger picture.

In 2022, the traffic department stated that a special effort was being made around the city to raise awareness of the risks of jaywalking, which they claim is the leading cause of fatal traffic accidents. They added that police would be conducting drives at certain sites to increase awareness among pedestrians, and violators would be fined Rs 10.

Violation of parking space in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

enough parking spots. "It's normal for people in the city to see autos or even public transport vehicles parked on the road, but it does not cause harm to the lives of people. Over the years, speeding has taken multiple lives and also has caused multiple accidents, but where are these matters noted down? And most of the so-called 'happening' places in the city do not have parking spots for autos, so we can't exactly blame the auto drivers for that."

According to the data, 17,52,853 cases have been registered for rider- without helmet and 3,42,980 have been registered for pillion rider- without helmet.

However, the data shows that only two cases have been recorded in five months for racing and trials of speed and 561 cases for violating lane discipline.

"I have seen people speed in front of traffic police in KR

Puram and the police would not even stop them, but if we dare to park our vehicle on the road even for some time, there is a challan on our name. It's high time that they either let us go for parking violations or just create more space," said a resident.

A senior police official told BM, "We have been focusing on enforcement and creating awareness and that is one of the major reasons why we wanted AI cameras in the city to capture violations so that our policemen concentrate more on maintaining smooth traffic."

Dark and dreary days of monsoon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stations and moreover, roads under these stretches are also bad with uneven patches," he said. Anil (name changed), also a commuter, said that he turns on his headlights during these stretches but has noticed that many plying on the roads do not.

On the other hand, a few commuters pointed out that many stations have lights installed, but are not turned on during the day, even when it's cloudy and dim. "The BMRCL can install light sensors in the mid point which can be set to trigger a pulse to the switch for the lights to turn on and off automatically. It is an existing technology and is also inexpensive. It will eliminate the dependency on a human to physically operate the switch," MA Ravinder, a citizen.

BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO), Yashwanth Chavan, said that the corporation has taken note of the issue and has been looking at the different possibilities for a solution.

On the other hand, Rajkumar Dugar, a public transport enthusiast and founder of C4C, said that crowding of two-wheelers under metro stations during rains obstructs smooth flow of traffic.

He noted that the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) during the previous monsoons had said that those who park their vehicles under underpasses and flyovers to seek shelter from the rain will be penalised on the charge of obstruction of traffic for safety reasons.

"It's a different scenario when one stops for shade elsewhere. On roads, it is fine if there are only one or two vehicles that stop but there usually is crowding," he said, urging commuters to find a safe space away from roads.

He further said that whether it is the rainy season or not, the BMRCL must ensure adequate lighting. "Areas below elevated metro stations are like tunnels. The BMRCL must ensure that it is well lit and backed up to run even when there is a power breakdown," he explained.

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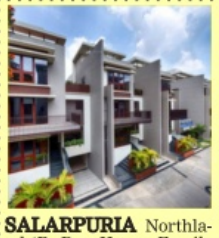

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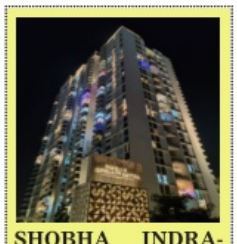

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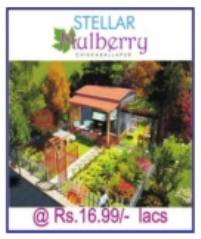

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vidya Kumar Yadav, R/a No. 1208, 12th floor, 1st Block, Gopalan Olampid, Kumbalagodu, Bengaluru-560074. I have changed my name from Vidya.C. to Vidya Kumar Yadav. Vide affidavit Dt : 22.06.2023. Sworn before notary : B.K.R Krishnamurthy.

I, Vamseedhar Paturu S/o P Rajasekhar Reddy R/o #402 and 410, C-block, Ortus1 Trends squares constructions Amruthahalli, B'luru 560092, have changed my name to Vamseedhar Reddy Paturu, affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Komal Vasudevan W/o Vasudevan N R/o No.76, Class - ic Featherlite, The Sanctuary, Gonighattapura, Nerige Village, Bengaluru 562125 have changed my name to Komal Verma, affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 notary Harisha G B'luru

I, Sumithra Manjunath R/o 29, 5th main road, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Basaveshwar nagar, Bengaluru 560079 changed my name to Sumithra Rudranarasimhamurthy, affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Siddhanth Sanjeev Siriskar S/o Sanjeev Baliram Siriskar R/o 3J84 Kristal Jasper, Kasavanahalli, B'luru-560035 Have changed my name to Siddhanth Siriskar Affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Lava Girappa R/o 80, 2nd cross, 5th main, 4th Block, Thyagrajnagar, Bengaluru 560028 have changed my name to LAVA GIRIAPPA affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Srinivas R/o No.137/31, 2nd cross road, Gowthampuram, Srirampuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to Srinivasan Rathinam, affidavit Dt.24/06/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shama Parveen Nisar Ahmed W/O Nisar Ahmed 13/2 pillana Grd B'lor-84 have changed my name to Shama Parveen for all purposes.

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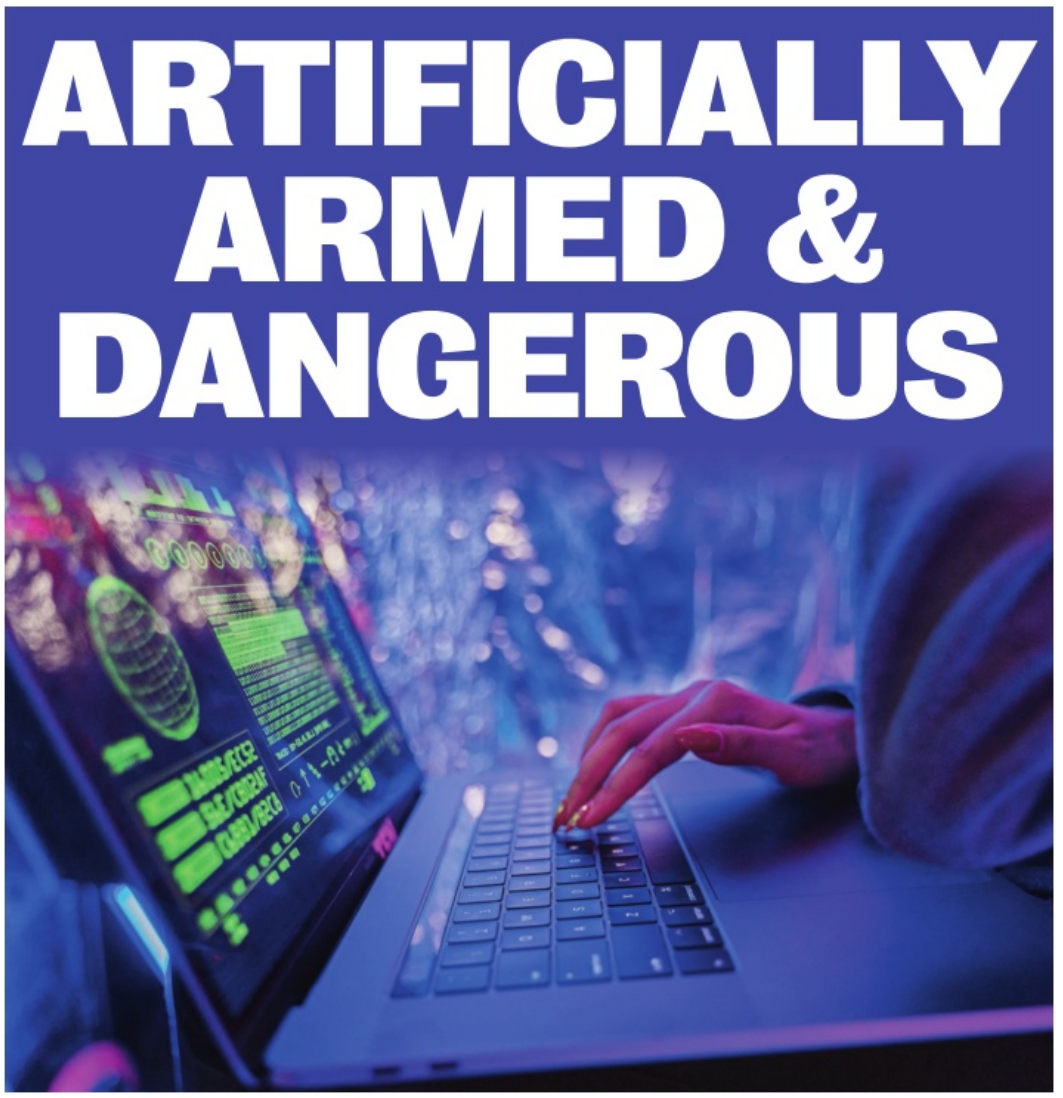
Google's promise
Google investing USD 10 billion in India's digitisation fund: Pichai tells PM Narendra Modi

Four ways criminals could use AI to target more victims



Warnings about artificial intelligence (AI) are ubiquitous right now. They have included fearful messages about AI's potential to cause the extinction of humans, invoking images of the Terminator movies. The UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has even set up a summit to discuss AI safety.

However, we have been using AI tools for a long time – from the algorithms used to recommend relevant products on shopping websites, to cars with technology that recognises traffic signs and provides lane positioning. AI is a tool to increase efficiency, process and sort large volumes of data, and offload decision making.

Nevertheless, these tools are open to everyone, including criminals. And we're already seeing the early stage adoption of AI by criminals. Deepfake technology has been used to generate revenge pornography, for example.

Technology enhances the efficiency of criminal activity. It allows lawbreakers to target a greater number of people and helps them be more plausible. Observing how criminals have adapted to, and adopted, technological advances in the past, can provide some clues as to how they might use AI.

1. A better phishing hook

AI tools like ChatGPT and Google's Bard provide writing support, allowing inexperienced writers to craft effective marketing messages, for example. However, this technology could also help criminals sound more believable when contacting potential victims.

Think about all those spam phishing emails and texts that are badly written and easily detected. Being plausible is key to being able to elicit information from a victim.

Phishing is a numbers game: an estimated 3.4 billion spam emails are sent every day. My own calculations show that if criminals were able to improve their messages so that as little as 0.000005% of them now convinced someone to reveal information, it would result in 6.2 million more phishing victims each year.

2. Automated interactions

One of the early uses for AI tools was to automate interactions between customers and services over text, chat messages and the phone. This enabled a faster response to customers and optimised business efficiency. Your first contact with an organisation is likely to be with an AI system, before you get to speak to a human.

Criminals can use the same tools to create automated interactions with large numbers of potential victims, at a scale not possible if it were just carried out by humans. They can impersonate legitimate services like banks over the phone and on email, in an attempt to elicit information that would allow them to steal your money.

3. Deepfakes

AI is really good at generating mathematical models that can be "trained" on large amounts of real-world data, making those models better at a given task. Deepfake technology in video and audio is an example of this. A deepfake act called Metaphysic, recently demonstrated the technology's potential when they unveiled a video of Simon Cowell singing opera on the television show America's Got Talent.

As individuals, we should be proactive in our attempts to understand AI, not complacent. We should develop our own approaches to it, maintaining a healthy sense of scepticism

This technology is beyond the reach of most criminals, but the ability to use AI to mimic the way a person would respond to texts, write emails, leave voice notes or make phone calls is freely available using AI. So is the data to train it, which can be gathered from videos on social media, for example.

Social media has always been a rich seam for criminals mining information on potential targets. There is now the potential for AI to be used to create a deepfake version of you. This deepfake can be exploited to interact with friends and family, convincing them to hand criminals information on you. Gaining a better insight into your life makes it easier to guess passwords or pins.

4. Brute forcing

Another technique used by criminals called "brute forcing" could also benefit from AI. This is where many combinations of characters and symbols are tried in turn to see if they match your passwords.

That's why long, complex passwords are safer; they are harder to guess by this method. Brute forcing is resource intensive, but it's easier if you know something about the person. For example, this allows lists of potential passwords to be ordered according to priority – increasing the efficiency of the process. For instance, they could start off with combinations that relate to the names of family members or pets.

Algorithms trained on your data could be used to help build these prioritised lists more accurately and target many people at once – so fewer resources are needed. Specific AI tools could be developed that harvest your online data, then analyse it all to build a profile of you.

If, for example, you frequently posted on social media about Taylor Swift, manually going through your posts for password clues would be hard work. Automated tools do this quickly and efficiently. All of this information would go into making the profile, making it easier to guess passwords and pins.

Healthy scepticism

We should not be frightened of AI, as it could bring real benefits to society. But as with any new technology, society needs to adapt to and understand it. Although we take smart phones for granted now, society had to adjust to having them in our lives. They have largely been beneficial, but uncertainties remain, such as a good amount of screen time for children.

As individuals, we should be proactive in our attempts to understand AI, not complacent. We should develop our own approaches to it, maintaining a healthy sense of scepticism. We will need to consider how we verify the validity of what we are reading, hearing or seeing.

These simple acts will help society reap the benefits of AI while ensuring we can protect ourselves from potential harms.

(By Daniel Prince, Lancaster University, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

APPLE PAY HERE?

Apple has been looking forward to launching its payment feature called Apple Pay in India for a long time now. As per GSMArena, Apple is planning to hold talks with the local regulatory bodies, specifically, the NPCI - a special division of Reserve Bank of India.

Apple Pay would be entering into a hyper-competitive segment with players like PhonePe, GooglePay, WhatsAppPay, and Paytm, among others. Reportedly, Tim Cook met Indian authorities to negotiate a localised version of Apple Pay - customers to be able to scan QR codes and initiate UPI transactions. **ANI**

META READY FOR TEST

The EU on Friday cautiously welcomed efforts made by Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, to prepare for new European rules on content moderation that kick in on August 25. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg "was very involved and knew exactly where we stand," EU commissioner Thierry Breton told reporters after talks at the social media giant's California headquarters.

"Now we expect the promising commitments I heard today to translate into results. I will be particularly vigilant on progress regarding disinformation and child protection," he said. Breton said that more than 1,000 people were working on implementation at Meta of the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA). **AFP**

NASA'S ELECTRIC FLIGHT

NASA has created an all-electric aircraft that will not only pave the way toward electric aviation but also support the US climate goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation sector by 2050.

NASA's X-57 Maxwell all-electric aircraft project will conclude aircraft operational activities by the end of September, with documentation and close-out activities continuing for several months afterwards. The research from the X-57 provides aviation researchers with hundreds of lessons learned, as well as revolutionary development in areas ranging from battery technology to cruise motor control design. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Onions contain magnesium, which is needed for rebalancing your body clock and giving you a good night's sleep

Oregano is rich in calcium, which is an important element for protecting bone health

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All problems solved

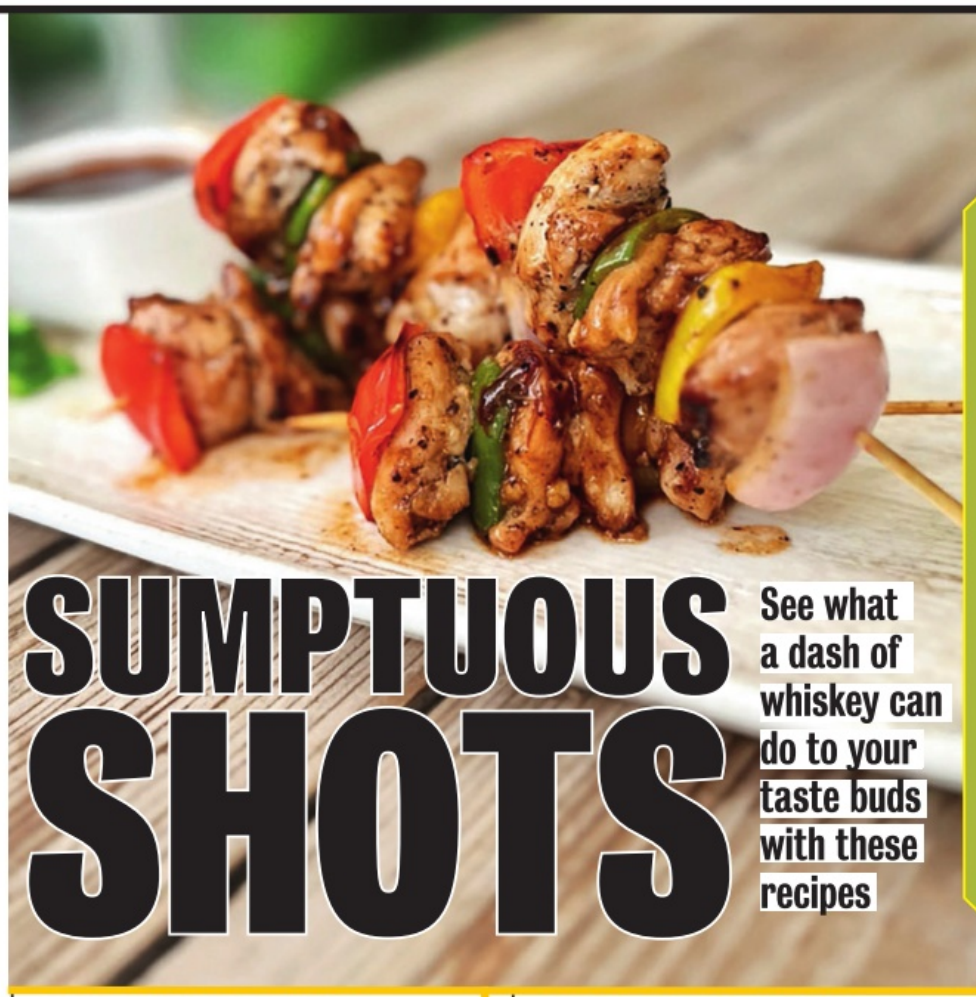
Dear Coleen

I'm a woman aged 29 and I've been chatting online to a guy I met through a dating app. I liked his profile and his photo (he looked handsome) and we just hit it off. We had a couple of phone calls, too, and he seemed so funny and charming.
When we had an actual date last week though, I was disappointed.
First of all, he didn't look like his photo at all, which must have been taken years ago when he still had all his hair and no beer gut. But it wasn't just about his appearance - he came across as a bit cocky and arrogant, which might have been down to nerves - and I didn't gel with him.
This has left me with a couple of dilemmas.
Firstly, he keeps messaging me to arrange another date, which I'm not keen on, but feel weird turning him down.
Secondly, my confidence is at an all-time low. A few years ago, I had a radar for guys who aren't what they seem, but now I don't trust myself to make the right choices.

COLEEN SAYS

Don't throw in the towel after one bad date. I understand online dating can feel a bit like looking through a catalogue but, like a catalogue, there is a returns policy!
I know it's annoying when you've invested time in someone and that's why it's so important to be honest online.
But even if it's an OK date and you get on well, the chemistry has to be there. So, don't feel bad about saying you don't think you're the right match.
Perhaps next time you connect with someone, have a Zoom call to get an indication of what someone is really like.
And I don't think your radar is off at all, so this experience shouldn't make you lose confidence.
Be clear in your own mind as to what is important to you in a partner, but also try to keep an open mind.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



SUMPTUOUS SHOTS

See what a dash of whiskey can do to your taste buds with these recipes

WHISKEY INFUSED CHICKEN SKEWERS

DESCRIPTION: Flavourful Whiskey Chicken skewers

INGREDIENTS

- Diced deboned Chicken leg – 200 gms
- Diced Red pepper – 10gms
- Diced Yellow pepper – 10gms
- Diced green pepper– 10gms
- Minced garlic – 10 gms
- Olive oil – 3 tbsp
- Whiskey – 30 ml
- Butter – 1tsp
- Barbecue sauce – 25 ml
- Salt – as required
- Smokey barbecue seasoning – ½ tsp

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cooking Time: 15
Serves 1

METHOD

- Dice deboned chicken ,Cut all peppers in dices
- Marinate chicken and all peppers in olive oil, minced garlic, salt, whiskey.
- Fix the chicken and peppers in a satay stick
- Heat a grill and cook evenly until it is browned from all sides.
- Prepare sauce by melting butter in a pan, add barbecue sauce, smoked barbecue seasoning adjust seasonings.
- Plate chicken skewers with leafy salad and Smokey barbecue sauce

SMOKED SALMON CROSTINI

DESCRIPTION: Thinly sliced smoked salmon topped over alcohol infused cream cheese toasted bread.

Prep Time: 15 mins
Cooking Time: 10
Serves 1

INGREDIENTS

- French loaf -1
- Cream cheese – 100 gms
- Whiskey – 20 ml
- Smoked salmon– 100 gms

METHOD

- Cut French loaf into slices and toast on one side
- Mix whiskey with cream cheese and apply on the toasted crostini
- Top it with thinly sliced salmon and microgreens
- Serve with a salad and Greek cucumber yoghurt sauce.

WHISKEY SPIKED CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE

DESCRIPTION: chocolate truffle pastry typically made by melting chocolate and combining with a splash of whiskey.

INGREDIENTS

For the chocolate sponge

- Flour– 50 gms
- Vegetable oil–25ml
- Cocoa powder –15 gm
- Grain sugar –50 gm
- Vinegar–10 ml
- Baking soda–2 gm
- Baking powder –2 gm

For ganache

- Cooking cream–50 gm
- Dark chocolate –100 gm
- Whisky –40 ml

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cooking Time: 40
180 degrees
Serves 2

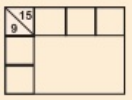
METHOD

- Mix all the Chocolate sponge ingredients together and fold it properly
- Pour the chocolate sponge mix in lined and buttered baking tray, bake in preheated oven for 40 minutes in 180 degree C.
- Remove from oven and cool.
- Prepare ganache by heating cooking cream and then add dark chocolate, cook till the chocolate melts and you get a smooth texture, allow it to cool
- Combine whiskey with the ganache.
- Slice the sponge, moisten with sugar syrup, apply the ganache and sandwich with the sliced sponge, pour the ganache on top and refrigerate for an hour
- Remove cut in rectangles, plate well with brandy snap, choco leafs and scoops of fruit.

Chef Raj Kumar Nandy, Hotel Royal Orchid Bangalore

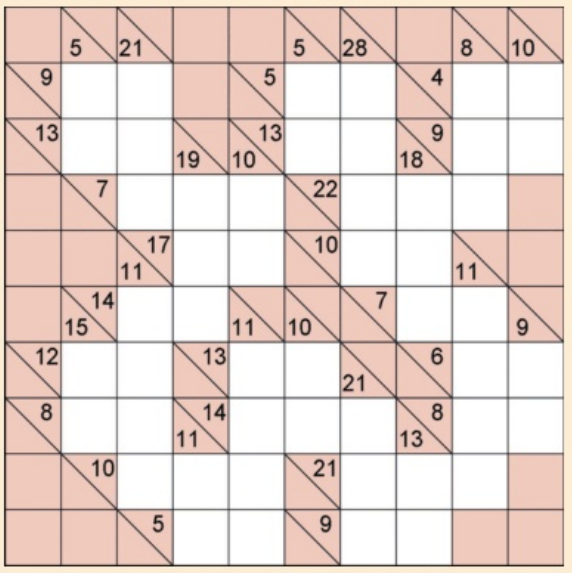
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

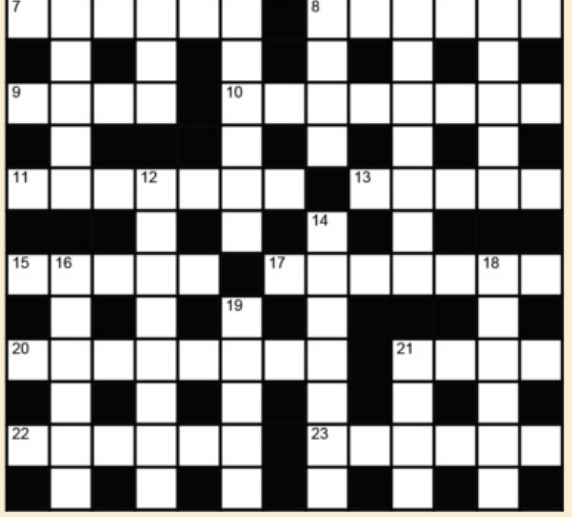


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Japanese car manufacturer (6)
8 L in IPL or EPL (6)
9 Applications (4)
10 Conceits, especially about appearances (8)
11 Crack (7)
13 Man of the church (5)
15 Blot (5)
17 Computer operating system (7)
20 Rose up (8)
21 Departs (4)
22 Tags or badges? (6)
23 Administrative area in Great Britain (6)

DOWN

1 Japanese plant growing art (6)
2 Oodles (4)
3 Vary cue anagram for a South Indian river (7)
4 Flat surface (5)
5 Flavour receptor on the tongue (8)
6 American dinner jacket (6)
12 Trembled with cold or fear (8)
14 Railway bridge (7)
16 Surgical drill (6)
18 Coerces, extorts or seizes forcibly (6)
19 Happiness or ecstasy (5)
21 Dejected (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS O

NM NT OIBIU MAA PDMI MA YNBI ZJ AZU JUIRZHNSIT.

Linemaro

When I hate you, it is because I love you to a point of passion that unhinges my soul

Mindchow

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people

Joke of the day

I went to buy camouflage trousers but couldn't find any

Loop

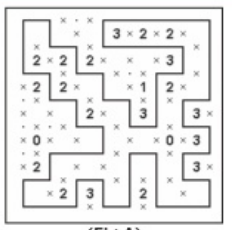
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

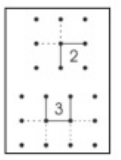
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

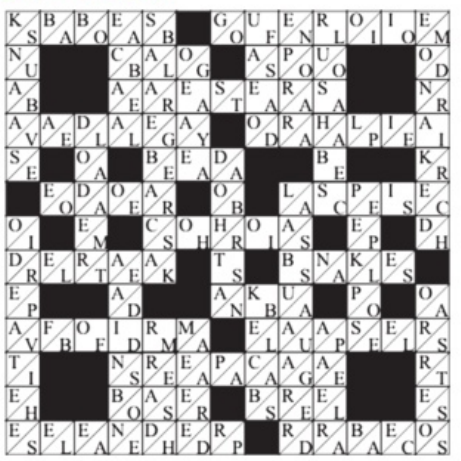


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

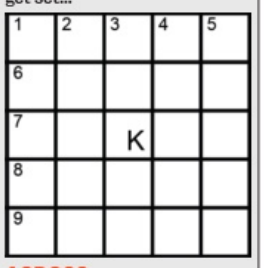
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

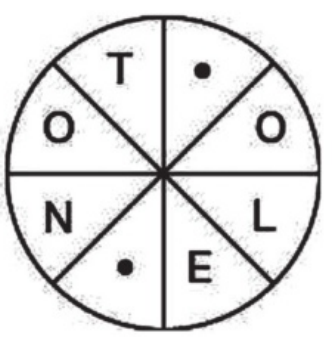
1 Boers; 6 Atria;
7 Saker; 8 Whale;
9 Slink

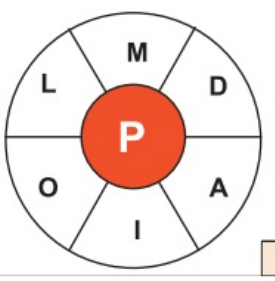
DOWN

1 Raw LB; 2 Irish;
3 One AK; 4 Stake;
5 Laser

Mensapuzzle

Find the missing letters to make a word.





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

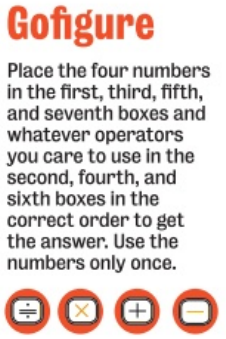
SudokuChallenge

	7						6	
		8	1		5	2		
3			9		7			8
	6	1		9		8	3	
	4	7		8		5	2	
2			5		4			7
		9	6		8	1		
	3						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

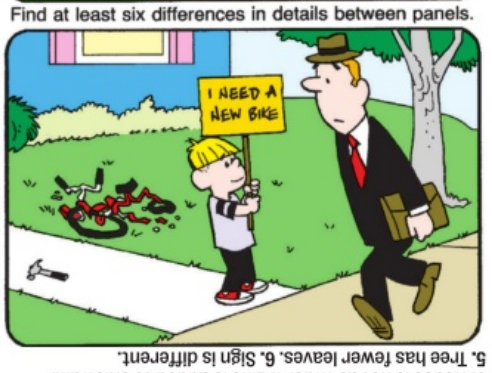
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



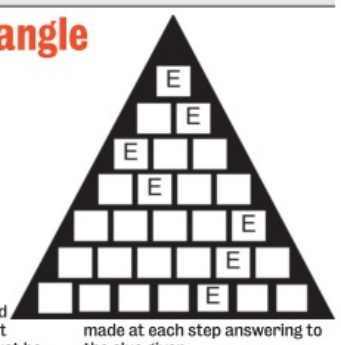
Differences: 1. Hammer is moved. 2. Handlebar is different. 3. House is not as wide. 4. Line is added to sidewalk. 5. Tree has fewer leaves. 6. Sign is different.

Riddler

What one three-letter word can be inserted in all three blanks below to make two words in each row? Lis___Tacle Has___Don Of___Der

Alpha triangle

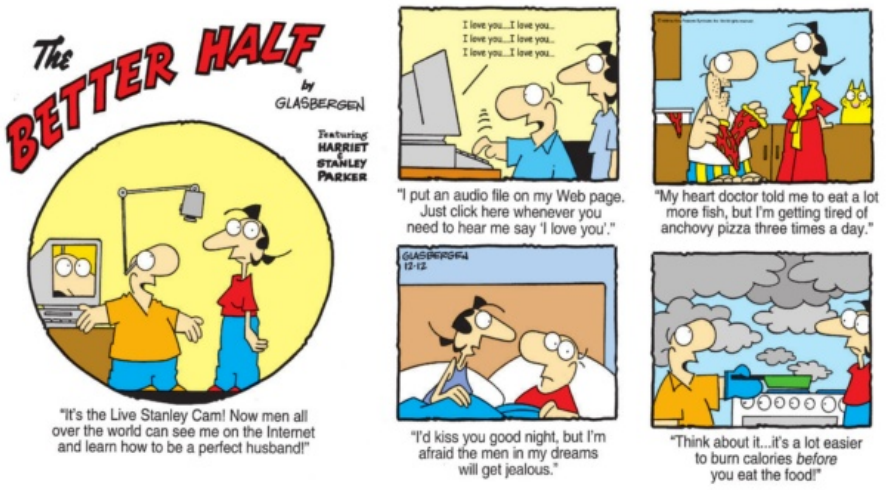
1 Second vowel
2 In reference to
3 Auditory organ
4 Pore over
5 Mark
6 Stabbing weapon
7 Tattered



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

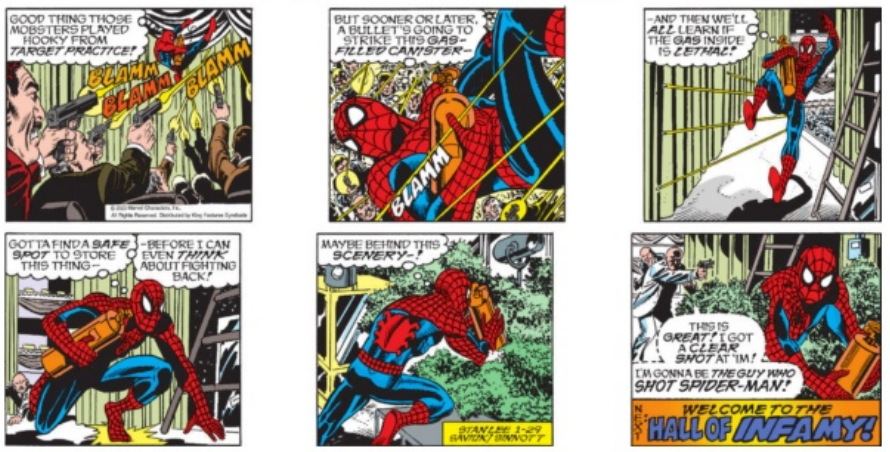
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"It's the Live Stanley Cam! Now men all over the world can see me on the Internet and learn how to be a perfect husband!"
I love you...I love you...
I love you...I love you...
I love you...I love you...
"I put an audio file on my Web page. Just click here whenever you need to hear me say 'I love you'."
"My heart doctor told me to eat a lot more fish, but I'm getting tired of anchovy pizza three times a day."
GLASBERGEN 12-12
"I'd kiss you good night, but I'm afraid the men in my dreams will get jealous."
"Think about it...it's a lot easier to burn calories *before* you eat the food!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WHAT DID I JUST SAY??
WHAT DID I JUST SAY.
WHAT?
YOU ASKED WHAT YOU JUST SAID, AND I SAID, "WHAT DID I JUST SAY," BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
NO! I MEAN, BEFORE THAT!
WELL, IF YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE WHAT YOU JUST SAID, YOU SHOULD'VE SAID, "WHAT DID I SAY BEFORE WHAT DID I JUST SAY," NOT JUST "WHAT DID I JUST SAY." ITS CONFUSING.
MOM DOESN'T WANT YOU PLAYING WIFFLE BALL IN THE LIVING ROOM.
WHY DIDN'T SHE JUST SAY SO?

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
Stan LEE
BY FAILING TO USE HIS "SPIDER-POWER" WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE, PETER PARKER ALLOWED A CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE THE LAW!--A CRIMINAL WHO WOULD LATER MURDER PETER'S GENTLE UNCLE BEN!
THUS DID SPIDER-MAN LEARN THE FATEFUL TRUTH: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!


GOOD THING THOSE MOBSTERS PLAYED HOOKY FROM TARGET PRACTICE!
BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM
BUT SOONER OR LATER A BULLET'S GOING TO STRIKE THIS GAS-FILLED CANISTER--
BLAMM
-AND THEN WE'LL ALL LEARN IF THE GAS INSIDE IS LETHAL!
GOTTA FIND A SAFE SPOT TO STORE THIS THING--
-BEFORE I CAN EVEN THINK ABOUT FIGHTING BACK!
MAYBE BEHIND THIS SCENERY--!
THIS IS GREAT! I GOT A CLEAR SHOT AT 'IM!
I'M GONNA BE THE GUY WHO SHOT SPIDER-MAN!
WELCOME TO THE HALL OF INFAMY!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Your impatient nature and arrogance will hold you back from making difficult decisions. You will need the blessings of your elders to succeed in your work. Avoid investing in dead assets, and lovebirds should steer clear of discussing bad moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You are blessed by the moon today, and you may expect to hear some good news regarding your profession. Domestic life will be filled with joy. Avoid engaging in arguments on trivial topics within your family. You can make important decisions regarding asset investments, and students should focus on their studies.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day for work, and you may perform well. Your seniors may give you added responsibilities and opportunities for promotion. You may also find yourself in a favourable position in a legal dispute. Your children's health may improve, and you might consider meeting with an investment consultant for their future. You will have control over hidden enemies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be preoccupied with issues related to your children. Short trips pertaining to their academics are likely. You will be able to accomplish difficult tasks with ease. Spending on artifacts or household items will improve your lifestyle. Additionally, you may spend on your friends and family members. Singles may find their soulmates, and lovebirds will enjoy happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may experience a sense of dullness and negativity may surround you. It is advisable to control your speech as harsh words can create problems. You may tend to reject suggestions from well-wishers, but things will be under control by late evening.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your self-respect will shield you from negative influences. You may become more emotional regarding family matters. Your performance at work will be commendable, and you will complete your tasks on time, boosting your confidence. Trust your inner self to make difficult decisions regarding business growth.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, allowing you to control unnecessary spending. Meeting with an advisor or seeking direction will help you make wise investment decisions, improving your financial health. You will find yourself more polite, which will increase your respect among those around you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the positive influence of the moon will bring you blessings. You will feel confident and enjoy your work, accelerating your current project. Your health will be good, and your desires may come true. People will seek your help in solving their problems, increasing your prestige in society.

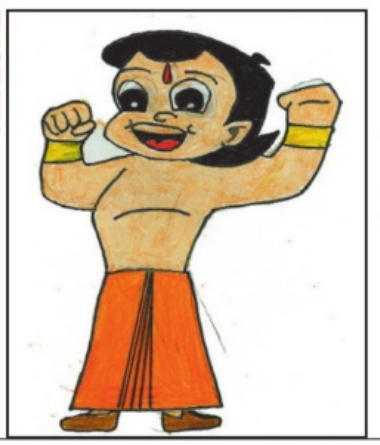
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the moon's influence is negative. You may feel dull and experience health issues affecting your daily routine. Be cautious as some acquaintances may betray you. Avoid making important financial decisions for your business and practice patience instead of rushing.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon, guiding you to make wise investment decisions. Your past investments may yield profits. Consider starting a new project that will benefit you in the long run. Expand your network to improve your social status.

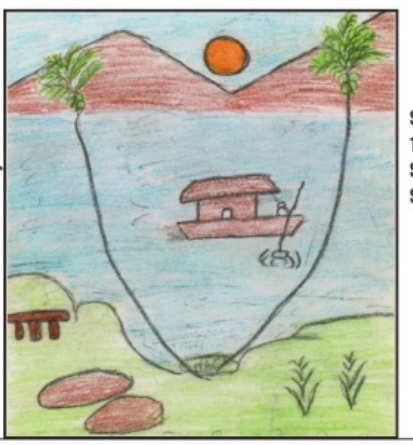
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be occupied with work. Your focus on your goals is clear, enabling you to complete tasks before the deadline with perfection. Enjoy happy moments with your family, and singles may find their soulmates. Consider renovating your house or office to enhance your status.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You are blessed by the moon, and with the help of elders' blessings, you will overcome the messy situation from last week. Destiny will aid your progress in life, and your spiritual power will guide you in making the right decisions. Your financial condition may improve.

KIDZONE



Dhanush K, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School



Sanjana M G, 13 Years, St. Thomas School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2÷½÷½
2×64×2
128×2
256

BULL'S EYE
damp, DIPLOMA, lamp, limp, opal, pall, palm, plaid, plod

STRIKE OUT

S	L	A	N	D	E	R		D	R	A	C	O		
E		O	A	R		B	E	E				E		
T		S	E	E	F	A	G	E				T		
A	F	I	R	M		L	A	P	E	L	S			
E		D			A	B	U		O		O			
D	E	R	E	K		T	S	A	K	E				
I		E	C	H	R	I	S		E		H			
O	D	E	A		O		A	S	P	I	C			
E		O	B	A	A		E				R			
V	A	L	L	E	Y		D	A	H	L	I	A		
A		E	R	A	S	E	R	S			N			
K	A	B	A	B		G	U	N	R	O	O	M		

QUICK

		B	T		C		P		T		T			
		T	O	Y	O	T	A		L	E	A	G	U	E
		N		N		U		A		S		X		
		U	S	E	S		V	A	N	I	T	I	E	S
		A		E		E				D				
		F	I	S	S	U	R	E		A	B	B	O	T
			H		Y		V		U					
		S	T	A	I	N		W	I	N	D	O	W	S
		R		V		B	A				R			
R	E	B	E	L	L	E	D		G	O	E	S		
	P		R		I		U		L		S			
	T	S	E	E	P	A	G	E			T			

FAST FIVE

B	R	O	S	E
R	I	A	T	A
A	S	K	E	R
W	H	E	A	L
L	I	N	K	S

RIDDLER
Ten: Listen Tentacle, Hasten Tendon, Often Tender

SUDOKU

4	7	5	8	2	3	9	6	1
6	9	8	1	4	5	2	7	3
3	1	2	9	6	7	4	5	8
5	6	1	7	9	2	8	3	4
8	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	9
9	4	7	3	8	1	5	2	6
2	8	6	5	1	4	3	9	7
7	5	9	6	3	8	1	4	2
1	3	4	2	7	9	6	8	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Re, Ear, Read, Grade, Dagger, Raggedy.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 9 + 7 - 9 = 25
Medium
2 + 8 + 6 - 1 = 15
Hard
7 - 7 + 2 x 2 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

MENSA PUZZLE
knothole.

QUOTE UNCODE
It is never too late to give up our prejudices.

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 # Cate at Glastonbury
Cate Blanchett made a surprise appearance at Glastonbury to perform with US pop-rock duo Sparks. She appeared in the music video for the band's recent single 'The Girl Is Crying In Her Latte'

INTERVIEW | TARA SUTARIA, ACTRESS

Let's talk equal pay

Tara Sutaria talks about career, life and more

Tara Sutaria has had a successful journey in the film industry and has learned a lot in the past 5-6 years. Excerpts from an interview with her:

You've had a promising journey in the industry so far.
It has been a very interesting journey, five/six years now, lots to learn. Lots of ups, a few downs but more ups than downs and I am grateful for that.

How do you handle it?
I am a very sensitive person, so it's not easy.

Do you get affected very easily?
I do get affected when things become personal. I think when you make up an equation with someone even if that person is a work-related person, I get attached very easily to people that mean something to me.

Do you think you made some mistakes in the kind of cinema that you chose to be part of or do you think you made the right choices?
I think the choices that I've made out of my own gut instinct and intuition have been right for me. I think at some stage recently I may have gone against my own instinct and you know it happens, when you are young you get advised by a lot of people, well-wishers, and well-meaning people, and sometimes you may not align with that. But you trust that instinct of the other person and you go ahead with the decision. That is the learning that I have had. Not to do that. Because if it doesn't align with me on a very basic level, it will not be right.

Do you think actresses are in a more commanding position today?
Well, I think yeah times have changed a little bit. But I think there are a lot more changes that need to be brought about for women in cinema. I think equal pay is something that we really need to talk about much more. It's not enough just one actress speaks about or two actresses speak about it because it's just very unfair, and I think that anything that's bad and unfair needs to be spoken about. **ETimes**

Fans gatecrash party

Actor Vijay Varma, who will be soon seen sharing the screen with his friend Tamannaah Bhatia in the upcoming streaming anthology 'Lust Stories 2', has wrapped up the Kyrgyzstan schedule of his upcoming film. The details with regards to the film are currently under wraps.

Vijay recently took to his Instagram to share the pictures and a video from the schedule wrap-up. The actor can be seen against the vast expanse of the picturesque landscape. He wrote in the caption: "Kyrgyzstan schedule ends with a hike to these majestic mountains."

However, the fans flocked to the comments section and flooded his post with the comments about Tamannaah. "Yahan ghumne ki to meri bhi tamannaah hai," read a comment. "To all the people looking for Tamannaah comment," added another. "Me waiting for Tamannaah's comment," added another. Inputs from another user, "Bass aise ghumne ki tammanna hai." Earlier, during an interview with Film Companion, Tamannaah had said that Vijay Varma is "a person who I care about deeply and he's my happy place." **— IANS**

Rhea opens up about being labelled

Actress Rhea Chakraborty, who serves as the Gang Leader on the youth adventure reality show 'MTV Roadies - Karm ya Kaand', has spoken up on the tough times she faced in life when she was labelled by people.

In the upcoming episode of 'MTV Roadies - Karm ya Kaand', Rhea will be seen sympathising with contestant Shuly Nada during the auditions over the subject of body positivity.

Rhea will be seen recalling her experience where she chose to rise above and combat all the hatred, rather than succumb to it. She will mention: "A lot of people will say a lot of things. I have been labelled with many names, and many things have been said about me. But will I accept those labels? (Will that stop me from living the life I want, certainly not. Let them go. Who are those people to comment on me?)"

The upcoming episode will see Shuly Nadar, a gifted calisthenics athlete, sharing her traumatic experience of an abusive boyfriend and various discriminatory labels she fought owing to her skin colour. Her story will leave all the gang leaders emotional.

Gang Leader Rhea will be seen sympathising with her strongly and saying: "Nothing is wrong with your colour, you are absolutely beautiful and strong. You deserve the best in life and whatever happened to you was not your fault, it was theirs." **— IANS**

DHOOMAM
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Pawan Kumar
- **ACTORS** Fahad Faasil, Aparna Balamurali, Roshan Mathew, Anu Mohan, Achyuth Kumar, Vineeth
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **DURATION** 143 minutes

Smoke and mirrors

Dhoomam manages to clearly convey its message on the adverse impact of tobacco use on health. The movie also throws some light on unethical and illegal methods that tobacco companies to promote their products among youngsters.

Director Pawan Kumar deserves praise for selecting the right subject that has the potential to make many people quit smoking.

The movie begins with Avinash aka Avi (Fahad Faasil) and his wife Diya (Aparna Balamurali) ending up as hostages on an isolated hilly terrain. The director introduces flashbacks at frequent intervals to narrate the story of Avinash and Diya. We see how Avinash, who used to work at a roadside eatery, becomes a sales head of a tobacco company owned by Sid aka Siddharth (Roshan Mathew) and how he succeeds in improving the sales of tobacco products.

Meanwhile, a business dispute arises between Siddharth and his uncle Praveen Menon (Vineeth). On his way to Shivamooga, Avinash comes across school children using the tobacco products. He quit the job but some circumstances led to him and his wife being held hostage. He comes to know that a chip is implanted in his wife's body and she has to smoke cigarettes to be alive. At this juncture, Praveen is shot dead and Siddharth is seriously injured. Prakash (Achyuth Kumar), a police inspector, takes up the investigation but his higher officers direct him to close the case. What happens to Diya and Avinash and who is the villain is what the movie Dhoomam is all about.

Fahal Faasil, as an aggressive promoter of tobacco products and as an affectionate husband, has acted well. Aparna Balamurali has acted well, especially when she is compelled to smoke cigarettes. Roshan Mathew, as a cunning business tycoon, is convincing. Vineeth, as an overambitious businessman, has acted well. Achyuth Kumar, Dharmanna Kadur, and Anu Mohan provided good support. The disadvantage of the movie is the lack of comedy.

Dhoomam is worth a watch for those who enjoy thrillers that also convey a message effectively.

—Y Maheswara Reddy